



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 5, 1998

Mr. Michael Bukiewicz  
Assistant County Attorney  
Office of the County Attorney  
P.O. Box 420268  
Laredo, Texas 78042-0268

OR98-0019

Dear Mr. Bukiewicz:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 111638.

The Justice of the Peace for Webb County Precinct One, Place Two (the "justice of the peace") received a request for the autopsy reports of a named individual. You claim that the requested reports are excepted from required public disclosure by section 552.108 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

An autopsy performed either by or for a justice of the peace in the course of an inquest or by a medical examiner in determining the cause of death is a public record and is subject to disclosure. Open Records Decision No. 21 (1974). Therefore, the justice of the peace must release the autopsy reports to the requestor.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "June B. Harden", is written over a horizontal line.

June B. Harden  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JBH/glg

Ref.: ID# 111638

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Mr. Eddie Zavala  
Laredo Morning Times  
111 Esperanza Drive  
Laredo, Texas 78041  
(w/o enclosures)